

# HALCYON PARK

SITUATED IN THE TOWN OF BLOOMFIELD, N.J.

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Halcyon Park  
Neighborhood  
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## President's Message:

I hope this fall season finds you in good health, surrounded by your loved ones.

Hurricane Irene hurt many in our Halcyon Park community, especially those brave souls who live along Florence Avenue. Bloomfield Patch reported the unfortunate losses of Mr. Melillo and his neighbors on account of a tree falling on the power lines and leaving everyone without water or electricity. What was admirable was that all neighbors worked together, sharing electricity, food, and water. Mr. and Mrs. Michael Rivas shared their

food and everything they could with all the neighbors who had been hurt by this latest disaster in New Jersey.

Many of our other neighbors had anywhere between five inches to two inches of water in their basement and lost furniture and other valuables. We hope they had a chance to apply for FEMA low-interest loans in order to make the necessary repairs. We are planning several activities this fall and would very much appreciate the cooperation of parents of children who plan to participate in our regular



Halloween activities on Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. We need volunteers to help us coordinate our annual Halloween Parade and other activities for the children. We would also like to plan for some cultural activities as we have several musicians and artists who live in Halcyon Park. We would like to schedule a concert in the park in the spring 2012. If there is another sunny weekend in October, we



Please visit the  
Monmouth Museum &  
Cultural Center in Lin-  
croft, NJ where our  
own  
Carlos Frias's  
Creation Myth (pictured  
above) is being exhibit-  
ed.

### Artists in Halcyon Park:

**Frantz Mathurin** of Lexington Avenue is a local artist who often paints by the pond. He has exhibited his paintings in various galleries in East Orange, New Jersey. If you are interested in his paintings, please call him at **Raw Artist** 862-755-3820 or at 973-748-5551

## Say Hey by Denise Serbay

Hello Neighbors,  
Well goodbye summer,  
hello fall, and what a summer it was. Aside from a record-breaking heatwave that left many of us beyond sweltering, and without

power for a couple hours, we all felt the effects of Hurricane Irene. Mother Nature truly ruled! Many of us, such as myself, were inconvenienced with flooded basements. However,

many of us were more severely affected, with heavily flooded basements, loss of power for extended periods caused by downed wires (caused by felled trees). But the spirit

## President's Message continued...

would like to offer a \$25 gift card (Visa) to a group of three or four children who can help us with weeding, planting tulips and other bulbs, and mulching the flowerbeds. If there is a group who wants to help out, you must contact us right away. Please leave me a note at 3 Parkway East or



email me at:  
dan.natal@nbkny.com

Finally, I would like to encourage everyone to become involved with

your neighborhood organization. Please remember that politicians respond primarily to groups that are actively involved in town issues and civic activities.

Sincerely,  
Daniel Natal, HPNA  
President

*Oh how we love  
pumpkin season.*

*You did know this gourd  
-ish squash has its own  
season, right? Winter,  
Spring, Summer,  
Pumpkin.... We anxiously  
anticipate it every  
year. ~Trader Joe's  
Fearless Flyer, October  
2010*

## Around Halcyon Park—Building Community by Susana Sotillo

Police Chief Christopher Goul addressed members of the Bloomfield Neighborhood Associations Committee (BNAC) on Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. He explained to those assembled the role of the Community Policing unit and stressed the importance that individual citizens and neighborhood groups play in working with the Police Department. We are their eyes and ears, and our

role is important in helping curb criminal activity in Bloomfield. Chief Goul also told us that neighbors on Berkeley Avenue and other nearby areas have formed Neighborhood Watch groups, and encouraged those in neighborhoods without an active Neighborhood Watch group to form one. We urge Halcyon Park residents who have a law en-

forcement background to call Police Officer Kevin O'Connell at 973-680-4106. He will meet with those in charge and guide them through the process of forming a Neighborhood Watch group. Captain James Decker, [jdecker@bloomfieldnjpd.com](mailto:jdecker@bloomfieldnjpd.com), is in charge of the Community Policing Unit. Chief Goul may be reached at 973-680-4149.

## Business and Finance – Successful Ventures By Ray Scally, Scally Systems LLC

Have you ever thought about starting your own business? Have you ever thought of yourself as an entrepreneur? The word entrepreneur comes from the French word *entreprendre*, and is a person who organizes, manages and assumes the risk of a

business or enterprise. It's a wonderful adventure with many joys, opportunities and challenges particularly in this day and age where so many services are needed. Obviously the first thing a person needs is an idea for a busi-

ness. What is your work experience, what are your hobbies, what are your passions? Robbie Olsen was a sixteen-year old high school student who loved tinkering with motors and engines. As a way to keep busy during summer

## From the Desk of Norma Borja, HP Beautification Coordinator

At this time I would like to share with all residents that it gives me a great sense of joy and fulfillment to finally see a sign posted at our peaceful and beautiful park from the Department of Environmental Protection in Trenton with Green Acres funds that were secured by the late Councilwoman Vicky Burnett. HALCYON PARK is now a site dedicated to RECREATION AND

OPEN SPACE. The HPNA feels totally blessed for this vision that has been finally accomplished. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Township of Bloomfield and everyone for their support. I invite and encourage the residents to help us protect and maintain this wonderful site. How you can help us? Encourage children to protect the plantings and the vegetation around the park. If you see a

child climbing a young tree or breaking branches, please talk to him/her. I also encourage adults to pick up litter. Likewise, if you see a pet owner who is not picking up after his/her pet, remind them politely that it is the law to do so. Children play in this park and not picking up after your dog endangers the health of our children.

If you see someone not pick  
*BEAUTIFICATION CONTIN-*

Autumn is  
a second  
spring  
when  
every leaf  
is a  
flower.

~Albert  
Camus

## Successful Ventures continued.



days, he started to repair his neighbor's lawn mowers and found there was good demand for his services and the revenue was surprisingly good for this venture. In a short amount of time, he went from repairing a lawn mower in an afternoon to a backlog of orders that took him a week to fill. It provided a very nice income for those next few years right through high school and college as his business grew to also cover snow blowers and a variety of motorized lawn care products. He had some advantages because he was local, he knew his customers and they knew him but most importantly it was something he knew, something he loved and something that filled a need in the community.

Maybe you love children and would be interested in opening your own

day care business. Mary Mc Govern did that in Baltimore, working out of her house and is running a business from her living room. Obviously she had to get the necessary licenses and city and state approvals but was able to build up her business over many years so that now she is comfortably supporting herself and doing something she absolutely loves. Or, look at the case of Alan Price, a grammar school music teacher who needed extra income with the birth of his first child and a mortgage payment on his first house. He started small, charging a minimum wage rate for his first students but within two years had a full schedule of fifteen students per week at a rate twice what he charged two years before!

These three people found a need in their respective communities, had a love and a passion for what they were doing and enjoyed a very successful

start up business.

Having an idea for a business you would like to start is a good beginning but there are other factors that go into making your business a success. Are you adequately financed to operate a business? Do you have savings to cover your living expenses that will get you through the start up time that can take two years or more? Are there family and friends who will back your venture until you can get it up and able to run on its own? How will you buy the necessary equipment and supplies that all businesses need at their starting point? Studies show that most businesses fail due to a lack of adequate financing, a failure rate that hits 75% within three years. It

*Successful Ventures  
continued...*

UED...

ng up after their dog, please call Karen Lore, Room 111-Municipal Building; Phone (973) 680-4018, or email her at

[health@bloomfieldtwpnj.com](mailto:health@bloomfieldtwpnj.com).

Children play in the park and not picking up after your pet endangers our children's health.

We encourage all residents to please report acts of vandalism to the Police Department at 973-680-4141. Since we pay taxes for park maintenance and other municipal services, we need to protect our investment.

I am presently working with the Electrical Department from the Township of Bloomfield to see if we can get the fountainhead lights to work again. They ordered a part so we can get the fountainhead working properly. For the safety of

our neighborhood in the past months the Engineering Department has assisted me by calling Public Service to get some of the lamp posts around the park working again. I also got in touch with the Park and Recreation Department and invited them to come by the park and walk around to see which benches need to be repaired. Remember that by keeping this site litter free and in wonderful shape, we will be able to maintain a high market value for our properties. On behalf of the HPNA, I wish you a very happy Fall season filled with fun, joy, peace, safety, creativity, and abundance.

Peace and Blessings!

would be a shame to knock on the door of a breakthrough year and have to close down because of a lack of funds.

If you feel you have adequate financing, and you have a bona fide Barn Burning idea for a Can't Miss opportunity, we get to some critical intangibles that will really make or break your business and it is all up to the individual entrepreneur: Do you have the determination, the optimism to see things through when everything seems to be going against you, the belief in yourself that you can succeed? Henry Ford, Founder of Ford Motor Company, once said, "Whether you think you can, or you think you can't, you're right!" Having a positive, can-do attitude, a belief in yourself, your product and your business is as much of a key to the success of a business as anything else

The writer, a former resident of Halcyon Park, operates his own business, Scally Systems LLC based in Essex Fells, NJ. This is the inaugural column that will appear in the Halcyon Park Newsletter on a regular basis and is dedicated to the study of entrepreneurship in our community. You can write the author at [rscalely@scallysystems.com](mailto:rscalely@scallysystems.com).

## News from a Neighbor: Maryann McAlister & Family

*Here we are at the end of the summer.*

*The school year for the McAlister's started one entering in Middle school (Nathan), and one entering her Senior Year in High School (Natalie). As you all know Track and Field has consumed their life and our home. Their outdoor track season ended in Orlando Florida competing in the AAU Club Nations where they came home with medals. Although Natalie was still recovering from a hamstring injury, Natalie was able to compete in the Shot Put and came home with fifth place medal.*

*This was an up raising year for Nathan going back to the distance races he was able to hold on and bring home a Silver medal in the 3000 meters. Other accomplishments for him were 8th place medal in the 1500 meters and 4th place medal in the 4x100 relay. (Still showing his speed in this race)*

*Competing in the heat in the middle of July was not so easy the quality of the air was different. However they did get some down time and they got to go to SeaWorld and to Universal Studios along with plenty of pool time.*

*Now we are in Sept for Cross Country season for Nathan while Natalie keep doing strength and conditioning workouts to get ready for her indoor season.*

*We want to thank everyone who has kept up with their track careers.*



**Participate in the political life of your town.**

**Submit questions you want to ask candidates and include your name and address. Questions are to be e-mailed to [tonispiotta@gmail.com](mailto:tonispiotta@gmail.com).**

**Candidates' Forum for Bloomfield Council contest, Nov. Gen Election**  
Location: Van Fusan Theater - Time: 7:00PM Thursday, October 27th

SAY HEY continued....

of neighborliness and togetherness prevailed and that was clear in the actions of our residents on Florence Avenue. Due to a tree that fell near their properties, they lost power. However, they came together, linking their generators from home to home to help each other pump out water from their flooded basement.

Our young residents can be seen out and about, playing, helping neighbors with chores, and the like. We are also looking for youngsters interested in forming an Environmental Club. In the meantime, check out what our neighbors on Lexington Avenue, Natalie and Nathaniel McAllister are up to as they continue excelling in track and field. Speaking of sports, our Yankees are in the playoffs again. Here's hoping they go all the way. GO YANKEES!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

One last note, a joyful one, we are thrilled to announce the arrival of our newest Halcyon Park resident. Todd and Rochelle Boone of Parkway West welcomed a beautiful baby boy, Jackson, on August 1. Congratulations!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



## SELLING YOUR HOUSE by Barbara P. Hughes

None of us wants to lose a neighbor, but we also realize that in today's economy, many of us have no choice but to sell...maybe retirement is around the corner...maybe you've outgrown your house and need something bigger? Here are some helpful hints about getting ready to sell—of course, don't hesitate to give us a call for more personalized tips or to answer your questions about selling in this market.

### Detach yourself emotionally

Buying real estate is an emotional decision, but the opposite needs to be true for selling real estate. Emotions can get in the way of selling your property. The more attached you are, the harder it will be to convince a potential buyer to see themselves as the new homeowner. Try to get used to the idea that the home will no longer be yours. Think of it as a product to be sold. Visit every room and say "good-bye." Visualize yourself handing over the keys.

### First impression

*Outside:* Curb appeal can create a good first impression. Cut the lawn

weekly while showing your home. Keep the lawn edged, fertilized and watered. Trim the bushes, prune trees and shrubs, remove weeds from the garden. Consider planting seasonally appropriate plants to add color. Plant shrubs to fill space where needed. Keep the yard tidy. Rake the leaves in the fall. Keep the walkways clear of snow in the winter. Store lawn equipment, toys, or any other large objects that may obstruct walkways.

Pressure-wash the siding or add a fresh coat of paint. Use neutral colors such as white or off-white. Repaint or replace the shutters or gutters as needed. A contrasting color is a nice touch. Add a new doormat. Repaint or replace the front door. Make sure the front door opens and closes securely and locks easily. Make sure the house number can easily be read (replace faded numbers and remove obstructions).

*Inside:*

Paint walls in a neutral color to appeal to a wide range of buyers. Replace burned out light bulbs. Replace carpeting or flooring that is worn out or dated.

Create an impression of order around the house (shirts in the closet facing the same way, coffee mugs in the kitchen with handles pointed in the same direction). Dishes should be put away or stacked in an orderly fashion. Towels should be freshly clean.

Keep the home bright. Open all blinds, drapes and curtains to let in maximum light. Turn on as many lights as possible, including appliance lights and closet lights.

### Removing clutter

After years of living in your house, clutter collects everywhere. Removing it is a challenge since you are attached to some of these objects. You may not even be aware how much you've accumulated. Bring in another set of eyes such as a friend or neighbor to help point out areas that appear cluttered. Your agent can also help with this.

Remove as many personal items as possible – you want the buyer to visualize themselves as the homeowner and your personal effects could inhibit this process. For exam-

## OVERCROWDING IN BLOOMFIELD SCHOOLS by Susana Sotillo

Bloomfield's schools are experiencing a tremendous growth in the population of school-age children despite the fact that the latest Census 2010 figures indicate that Bloomfield has 47,315 residents or fewer residents than figures reported for the 2000 Census. It is a fact that many Bloomfield residents refused to fill out the Census questionnaire, including some from Halcyon Park. This has resulted in the loss of thousands in federal funds that are desperately needed to cover shortages in the school district's budget. The Town

ship has not received any federal or state assistance in order to cover budget deficits. As a result, the town relies primarily on property taxes to meet its obligations.

There are several two-family houses in Halcyon Park that are housing three or more families with several children in illegally subdivided apartments. If you feel you don't care because it is not your problem, think again. Those of us living in single-family houses are paying an average of \$10,900 in property taxes. We are in effect subsidi-

dizing greedy slum lords and others who profit at the expense of their neighbors. Illegally subdivided apartments or rooms pose a fire hazard because they violate the required square footage per individual in a household. Please help us curb these illegal subdivisions in our neighborhood. Contact **Glenn Dominick**, Director of Community Development; Room 200-Municipal Building; Phone (973) 680-4192 FAX (973) 680-4510. You may also email him at:

[commdev@bloomfieldtwpnj.com](mailto:commdev@bloomfieldtwpnj.com)

### SELLING YOUR HOME cont.

ple, remove any family photos, books from the bookcases, and accoutrements from tables and shelves. Sell, donate or throw away items you no longer want or need. Rent a storage space to keep kick-knacks, photos, extra furniture, and other personal items. Essential items can be placed in a box and stored in a closet.

Create an open environment, free from clutter. Remove any extra furniture or objects blocking access to closets or cabinets. Keep walkways clear. Create as much space as possible. Allow the buyer's imagination to flow freely.

\*Useful tip: Remove built-in appliances and fixtures you want to keep. It could be a deal breaker if the buyer learns they are not included with the home.

### Limit expenses

Fixing up your home for selling need not be an expensive proposition. Focus on the major issues, such as fixing broken windows or a leaky roof. Fixing a leaking roof is less expensive than having a buyer negotiate a new



roof.

When inspecting a home, prospective buyers will often "kick the tires." They'll play with anything that has a handle or switch, turning on and off the faucets, flicking the lights, opening and closing doors, cabinets and drawers. Replace or polish handles, door knobs, light switches and faucet fixtures. Apply grease to squeaky doors. These are some inexpensive ways to create a good first impression.

### Eliminate odors

Smoking and pets are a source of unwanted odors. If you're a smoker, you may want to move your smoking outside while showing your home. An air neu-

tralizer such as an ozone spray can help eliminate smoking odors while not leaving behind the scent of a masking odor. If you are a pet owner, you may have become desensitized to the odors your pets leave behind, but others are not so immune. Cat owners should change the kitty litter daily and hide the litter box when showing the house. Shampoo the carpets. Use a carpet freshener periodically. Invite a third-party such as a friend or neighbor to assess your efforts.

Air out the house just before a visit from a potential buyer. Fill the home with inviting smells, such as scented potpourri and fresh flowers. Baking cookies, cinnamon rolls or homemade bread adds a warm and inviting atmosphere to your home. Starting a fire in the fireplace is also a nice touch.



For Additional Information:

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